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RETAKE 6
RE;START

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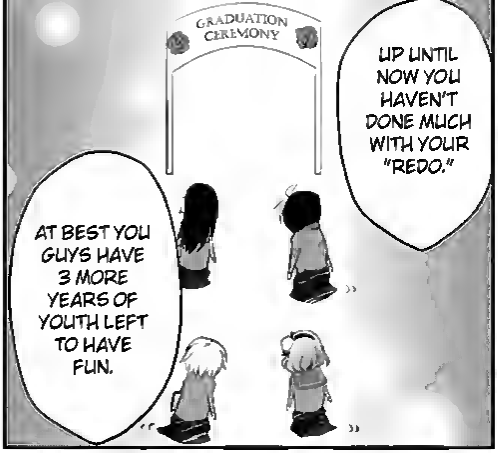
HENSOKUKEI QUADRANGLE

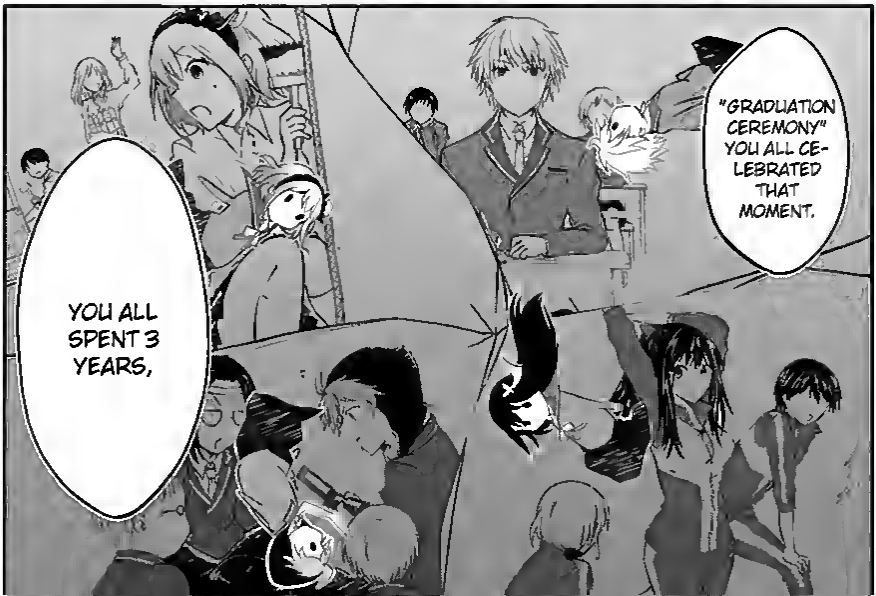
DANJO AZUSA

Retake6

"RE-DOING OUR YOUTH"...?
...ARE WE REALLY...
STOP IT♪
THAT'S A REALLY SCARY FACE YOU'RE MAKING!
NOW THAT EVERYONE'S ON THE SAME PAGE,
I THINK I'LL RAISE THE STAKES BY ADDING A LITTLE RULE.
A RULE...!?

I GUESS I DID SAY "YOUTH."
SO HOW ABOUT GOING WITH "LOVE?"
SO WHAT SHALL WE MAKE THIS "RULE?"
IT'S NOT REALLY GOING TO BE THAT BIG OF A THING.
WELL, ...WHAT YOU GUYS ARE DOING IS NOT A "REDO."
BY THE TIME OF THE "GRADUATION CEREMONY"
AT LEAST ONE OF YOU FOUR MUST FIND A LOVER. IF THIS ISN'T FULFILLED,
THIS "YOUTH REDO" BECOMES INVALID.
WAI... WAIT A SECOND,
WHAT'S WITH THAT...!?
HUH? WELL YOU KNOW...

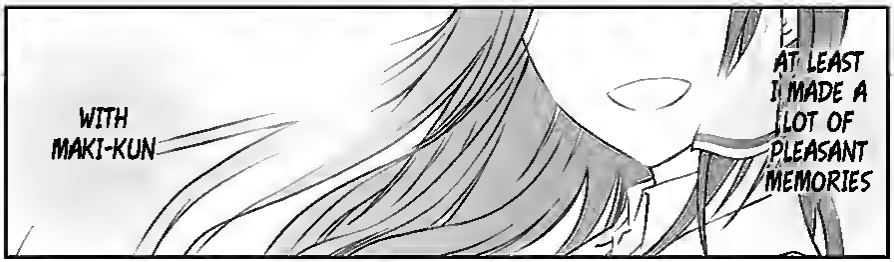

GRADUATION CEREMONY
UP UNTIL NOW YOU HAVEN'T DONE MUCH WITH YOUR "REDO."
AT BEST YOU GUYS HAVE 3 MORE YEARS OF YOUTH LEFT TO HAVE FUN.



This is a work of fiction. There is no relationship with any real person or organization

THAT
ALL RESULTED IN NOTHING.
BASICALLY YOU GUYS,
ARE RELAPSING INTO YOUR PRE-REDO
2015 MINDSETS.
...SO
ALL THESE MEMORIES...
WILL DISAPPEAR...?
.....!
THAT'S RIGHT.
RATHER THAN LOSE THESE MEMORIES, YOU'LL FORGET THE REDO EVER HAPPENED.

ONCE AGAIN,
EVERYTHING WILL BE UNDONE, YOU'LL RETURN TO THAT REALITY
AND LIVE OUT THE REST OF YOUR MISERABLE LIVES.


AT LEAST I MADE A LOT OF PLEASANT MEMORIES
WITH MAKI-KUN

NOW NOW
DON'T BE SUCH A DOWNER.

... FUCK OFF...!!
THAT HELL IS IN THE PAST FOR US...

...IF THAT'S DISAGREEABLE, THEN ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS FIND "LOVE."

ISN'T THAT EASY?
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS GET SOMEONE ELSE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU. THAT IS. ALL.
...I MEAN,
AFTER ALL,
IT'S YOUR "YOUTH."
7
AH, INCIDENTALLY,
YOUR "LOVER" CAN'T BE ANYONE AMONGST YOU 4,
IT CAN BE YOUR SENPAI, YOUR KOUHAI, OR EVEN YOUR SENSEI FOR ALL I CARE.)
HOWEVER,

IF YOU TRY TO LIE ABOUT THE FEELING, I'LL END IT IMMEDIATELY.
SO DON'T EVEN THINK OF TRYING TO LIE TO ME.
ANYWAY, DO YOUR BEST TO FIND "LOVE" BEFORE THE "GRADUATION CEREMONY."
AND OF COURSE USE YOUR "YOUTH,"
TO PUT ON A FUN SHOW FOR ME!
WHAT? WAIT
MIO...!

WE'RE IN THIS BECAUSE OF HER.
ALL OF US WERE TARGETS SHE CHOSE...!
DAMN... JUST SUDDENLY DISAPPEARING.
WHAT THE HELL DID SHE MEAN "INVALIDATE OUR REDO"...!?
..SOMETHING LIKE THAT CAN'T BE SAID SO SUDDENLY
EACH ONE OF US.
DON'T YOU GET IT...?
.....?
.....
...NOW THEY'RE CONFUSED.
AH NOW I'M PISSED!
I'M GOING HOME.
AH, WAIT AZUMA...!
WHAT A DELICIOUS DEVELOPMENT!

HAAH...
キーン コーン...
...IN OTHER WORDS,
SHE CHOSE 4 PEOPLE FOR THIS...
#7
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...
#7
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO ADD SOMETHING SO UNNECESSARY
AH, ENOUGH... MIO...!
ガシ ガシ
RIGHT NOW WE'RE LIKE THIS...
ME
A concern
IF WE DON'T "FALL IN LOVE" SHE'LL INVALIDATE OUR REDO.
Stalker
Secret wolf

MAKI-KUN.
GAH!?
HUH? CLUBS?
CLUB APPLICATIONS ARE DUE SOON.
CHI-CHI-CHI-CHINO-SAN ..!?
MAKI-KUN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GO? LOOK FOR CLUBS?
AH...
SO THAT'S WHY EVERYONE HAS BEEN HANGING AROUND AFTER SCHOOL RECENTLY...?
MAKI-KUN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JOIN A CLUB?
...THAT'S RIGHT,
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO JOIN RIGHT NOW.
AH... I... DON'T HAVE ANYTHING IN MIND.
.....
...HEY MAKI-KUN.

WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH ME FOR A BIT?
HUH?

OOOOOH!!
A-AMAZING CHINO-SAN. ARE YOU GOING TO JOIN? THE TABLE TENNIS CLUB...
ARE YOU OKAY MAKI-KUN?
WIN
WON'T YOU JOIN THE CLUB!?
A PERFECT VICTORY!
13
YOU'VE BEEN TO 80% OF THEM!?
This school has a lot of clubs
THE MORE I VISIT THE HARDER IT IS TO DECIDE...
I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO 80% OF THEM.
I'M STILL NOT SURE...
IS THERE ANOTHER CLUB YOU'D RATHER JOIN?
HUH!
We're going to more?
LET'S GO TO THE NEXT ONE MAKI-KUN!
...LET'S NOT WASTE ANY TIME.

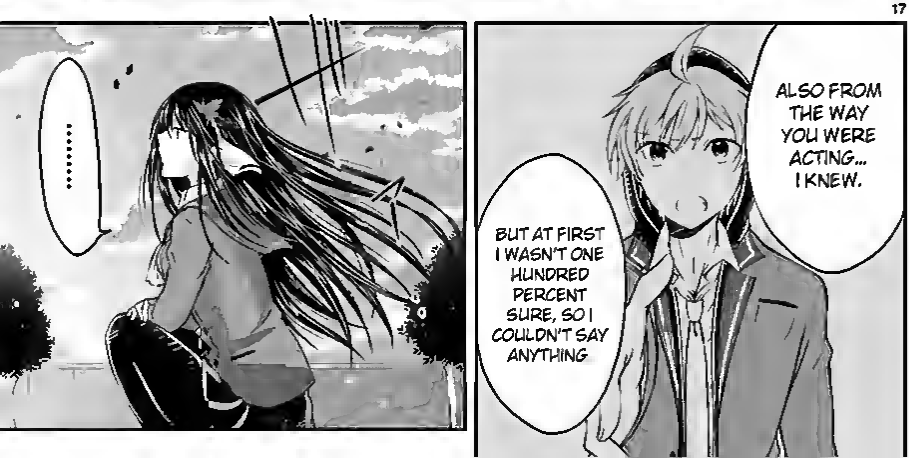
?
?
?
14
!?
にー
にー
HAAH... SO MUCH RUNNING AROUND...

BUT THIS SCHOOL BANNED JOINING MORE THAN ONE CLUB.. THAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT..
WELL.. THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH I WANT TO DO...
...DID YOU MAKE A DECISION?
WE SOMEHOW MADE IT TO ALL OF THEM THOUGH
NO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY COULD MAKE ME THIS TIRED...
YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT..
I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO JOIN THE STUDENT COUNCIL OR SOMETHING.
YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY ACTIVE HUH CHINO-SAN.
...BUT IT'S A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT.
...I DO WANT TO DO SOME EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES...
...YOU KNOW,

AFTER 4 YEARS,
MY EXPRESSIONS WILL DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY.
YOU SAW THE FUTURE ME...
THAT WAS THE END...
I HAD LOST NOT JUST MY EXPRESSIONS, BUT MY EMOTIONS.

...YOU SAID IT A LITTLE WHILE AGO RIGHT?
THAT I HADN'T MADE THAT EXPRESSION IN A WHILE.
AH... YEAH.
...HUH?

HUH?
YOU KNEW SINCE THEN...!?
...I KNEW.
I'VE KNOWN SINCE THAT TIME ON THE ROOFTOP.
?
...BY THE WAY, DID YOU KNOW BACK THEN
THAT I WAS DOING A REDO...?
OF COURSE, THAT WAS HOW...
I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD, THEN IT WAS CONFIRMED BY MIO.
MY ATTITUDE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT NOW.
BUT MAKI-KUN,
IT SEEMS LIKE MIO HAS ALWAYS BEEN NEARBY...
...IN ADDITION, EVER SINCE I GOT THAT YOUTH MANUAL,


.....
ALSO FROM THE WAY YOU WERE ACTING... I KNEW.
BUT AT FIRST I WASN'T ONE HUNDRED PERCENT SURE, SO I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING

THE FIRST TIME I LEARNED OF IT WAS IN THE 6TH GRADE...
MY CLASSMATE WON SOME KIND OF PREFECTURE WIDE CONTEST.
Congratulations Satou-san!!
THE CLASS WAS HAVING A CELEBRATION.
EVERYONE, LET'S GIVE SATOU-SAN A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!!
パチ
パチ
THAT'S SO AMAZING.
SATOU-SAN...
わー
STAFF ROOM ...
AAA...
STAFF ROOM ...
...YOU KNOW,
AH... IT'S THOSE GUYS...
希望
希望
……
ヒソ
ヒソ

ISN'T CHINO-SAN JUST JEALOUS OF SATOU-SAN?
THAT'S RIGHT, CHINO-SAN IS MAD SHE DIDN'T GET HER OWN AWARD.
HUH...?
...YOU'RE WRONG
I WOULDN'T..
I MEAN, SHE DIDN'T EVEN SMILE ONCE DURING THE CELEBRATION.
THAT'S,
NOT TRUE RIGHT...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S BEEN UP WITH HER RECENTLY...
SHE'S NO FACE!*
RIGHT RIGHT! SHE WAS JUST STARING AT SATOU-SAN THE ENTIRE TIME.

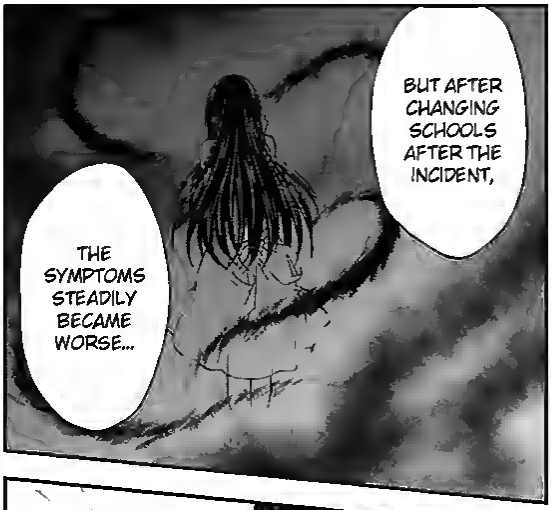
T/N: Spirited Away reference

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME,
THAT I NOTICED I COULDN'T CONTROL IT.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY IT WAS LIKE THAT...

BUT, AT THAT TIME I REALIZED THAT PEOPLE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND IF MY FACIAL EXPRESSIONS DIDN'T MATCH MY EMOTIONS...
I GRADUALLY BECAME UNSURE OF WHAT MY FACE WAS SHOWING

CHINO-SAN ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON...!
IT MADE ME
I HAD BEEN TRYING TO EXPRESS MY EMOTIONS PROPERLY,
BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU SAID THAT TIME.
REALLY HAPPY WHEN YOU SMILED
IT'S THE SAME,
EVEN NOW, IN MY HIGH SCHOOL DAYS.

... THA...
... THAT,


BUT AFTER CHANGING SCHOOLS AFTER THE INCIDENT,
THE SYMPTOMS STEADILY BECAME WORSE...

AS I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THAT...

...SO THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE...

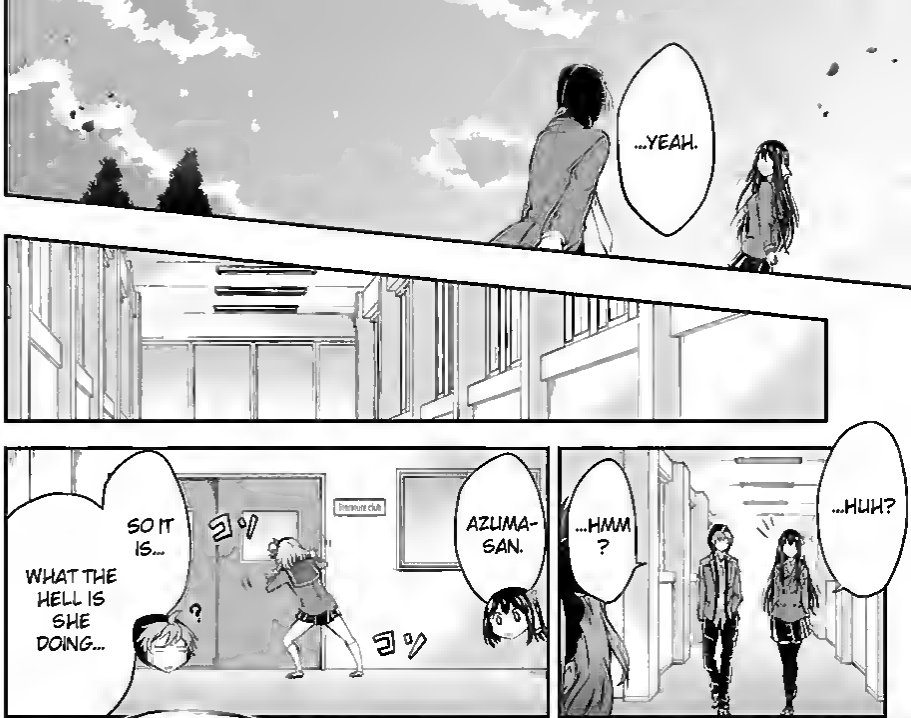
HUH...?
LUCKILY SOMEONE STUMBLE ACROSS ME ON THE STREET,
SO I GOT AWAY WITH ONLY MINOR INJURIES...
NO, THAT'S WRONG.
THAT INCIDENT WAS UNDENIABLY SCARY,
OR SO VARIOUS PEOPLE TOLD ME.
...DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
...IS THAT SO...
...SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
I'M GLAD.
REALLY...
...SORRY...
FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
MY PARENTS HAD BECOME A LITTLE IRRITABLE...
I WAS LIVING LIFE CONFINED TO MY HOUSE, SO I DIDN'T KNOW.
THEN...
I THINK THE CAUSE WAS... PROBABLY SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED LATER.

Then?
...HUH...?
SO,
...CHINO-SAN?
..DON'T WORRY,
IT'S NO-THING.

NATURALLY MY FACIAL EXPRESSIONS WERE STILL LIKE THIS IN HIGH SCHOOL.
SO I COULDN'T DO A LOT OF THINGS I WANTED TO TRY AT THAT TIME.
...A LOT OF EXPERIENCES...
SMILING.
CRYING.
I WANT TO GRADUALLY REGAIN MY OWN FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.

...THAT IS THE REASON,
FOR MY "REDO."

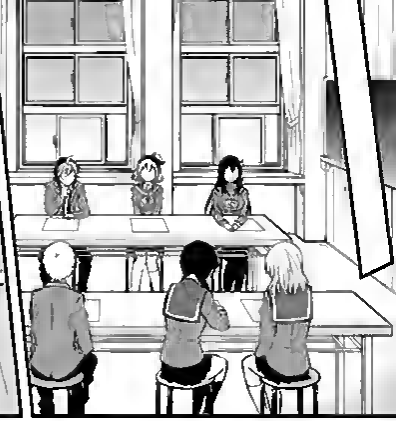
OF COURSE MIO SAID, IF WE DON'T FIND LOVE THEN SHE'LL INVALIDATE OUR REDO.
EVEN IF WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE,
I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD WORRY ABOUT IT NOW.
THAT'S WHY,
THE ONLY THING I WANT TO FOCUS ON NOW IS MAKING MEMORIES.
...OF COURSE,
I WANT TO MAKE THEM WITH MAKI-KUN.

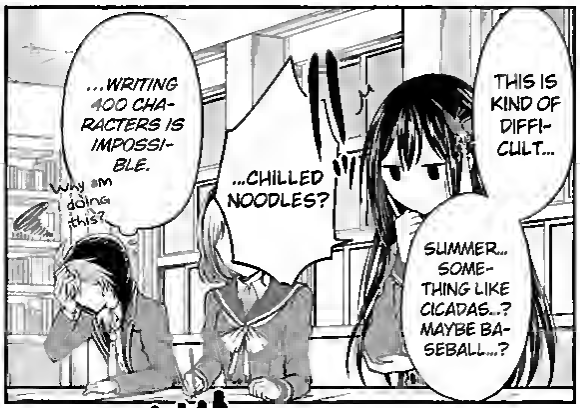

...YEAH.
Literature club
SO IT IS...
WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING...
AZUMA-SAN.
...HMM?
...HUH?

...NO NO NO, NORMAL PEOPLE DON'T REACT LIKE THAT.
WHA-WHA-WHAT IS IT? DON'T SURPRISE ME LIKE THAT...!!
HIYAAAAAA!?
HEY AZUMA!
←部室こちら
LITERATURE CLUB
新入部員募集中！
...THE LITERATURE CLUB...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY.
It's weird
...NO- NOTHING REALLY ...
I WAS JUST PASSING BY.
ACTUALLY WHAT ARE YOU DOING TOGETHER WITH CHINO-SAN ANYWAY!!
GET AWAY FROM THIS MOODY FREAK!!
HUH...!?
27
.....
...YOU'LL COME TOO,
RIGHT AZUMA-SAN?
...!
HUH? CHI, CHINO-SAN!?
...OH THAT'S RIGHT WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE LITERATURE CLUB YET.
LET'S GO INSIDE!
HUH..? HAVEN'T WE ALREADY BEEN TO ALL THE CLUBS...?

Let's write a short story!
Theme "Summer"
WELL THEN,
HOW ABOUT WE WRITE A SHORT STORY IN 400 CHARACTERS WITH THE THEME OF SUMMER!




...WRITING 400 CHARACTERS IS IMPOSSIBLE.
Why am doing this?
...CHILLED NOODLES?
THIS IS KIND OF DIFFICULT...
SUMMER... SOMETHING LIKE CICADAS...? MAYBE BASEBALL...?

AH, NO IT'S JUST THAT I HAPPENED TO ALREADY THINK ABOUT THE SUBJECT.
IT'S NOT VERY WELL WRITTEN AT ALL!

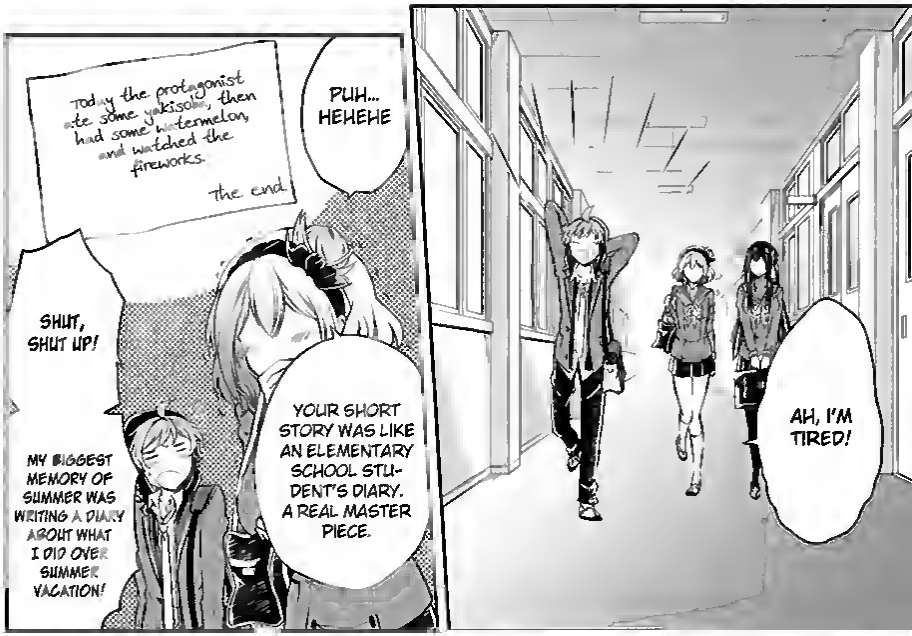
...HUH!?
AZUMA-SAN YOU WRITE PRETTY FAST HUH.

WHAT ARE YOU A MAIN CHARACTER OF A MANGA?
SO THOSE ARE JUST THE TWO THINGS I WROTE ABOUT.
DON'T YOU AUTOMATICALLY ASSOCIATE SUMMER WITH SUNNY DAYS AND FUN,
AND EERIE GHOST STORIES AT NIGHT?
NOT
I LIKE WHAT YOU WROTE.
Ahaha
NOT AT ALL!
I GUESS I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT NOVELS TOO MUCH.
I DON'T THINK I'M SOME KIND OF CHARACTER...
HUH!?
...I WASN'T THINKING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

...OH I REMEMBER...
!
DID YOU READ SOME BOOK THAT GAVE YOU THE IDEA?
FROM THE LIBRARY?
...AH SORRY.
I ONLY SAW A LITTLE OF WHAT YOU WROTE...
EXPRESSIVE...?
I THOUGHT YOUR STORY WAS VERY EXPRESSIVE.

...TO ME,
IT SEEMS REALLY DIFFICULT...
I CAN TELL WHAT YOU WERE FEELING WHEN YOU WROTE THIS JUST BY LOOKING.
I WAS WORRIED THAT IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO DETAILED THOUGH.
...SOMEHOW, I WANTED THE CHARACTERS TO SEEM LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN HERE, AND MAKE A SUPRISED FACE THERE, BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY SEE THEIR FACES...

BECAUSE IT'S REALLY AMAZING.
I'M JEA-LOUS,
THAT'S WHY,
.....
COMPA-RED TO MINE...
HMMM COLD NOOD-LES...
.....


Today the protagonist ate some yakisoba, then had some watermelon, and watched the fireworks.
the end.
PUH... HEHEHE
SHUT, SHUT UP!
MY BIGGEST MEMORY OF SUMMER WAS WRITING A DIARY ABOUT WHAT I DID OVER SUMMER VACATION!
YOUR SHORT STORY WAS LIKE AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT'S DIARY. A REAL MASTER PIECE.
AH, I'M TIRED!

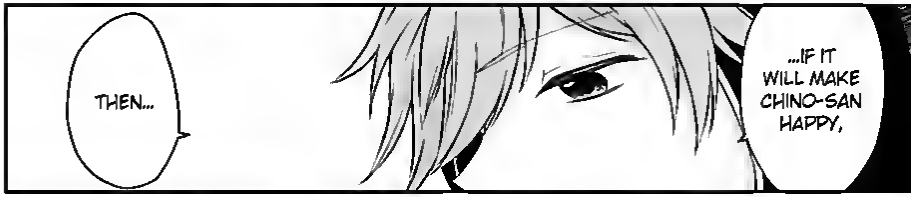
SORRY I FORGOT SOMETHING...
I'LL GO GET IT SO WAIT FOR ME!
AH...

LOVE HER...
I REALLY DO,
... AH...

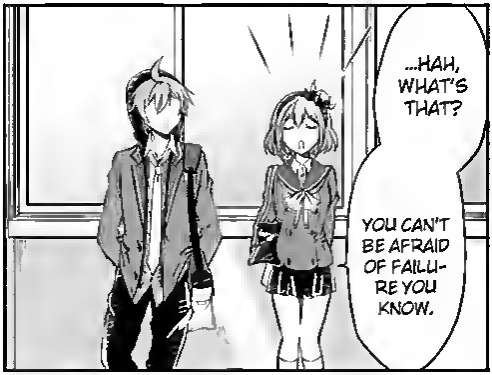
CHINO-SAN KNEW THAT I WOULDN'T GO INTO THE LITERATURE CLUB ALONE, SO SHE WENT IN WITH ME.
I REMEMBER THE THINGS SHE SAID TO ME IN THE LIBRARY.
...AH ENOUGH.
...I COULDN'T SEE IT UNTIL NOW,
SHE SPOKE TO ME SUDDENLY ACTING REALLY FAMILIAR.
...WHEN I ASKED,
WHY SHE DID THAT SO SUDDENLY, SHE SAID "NO REASON."

...YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS, ABOUT CHINO-SAN HUH?
...THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S NOT AT ALL A JOKE.
IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE SELFISH.

I WANT TO BECOME CHINO-SAN'S NUMBER ONE FRIEND.
I ALWAYS SAY "YOU DON'T REALLY NEED A BOYFRIEND IN THIS LIFE!"
SO THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO ASK...
...WHAT ABOUT YOU?
...I ... I WILL...


...IF IT WILL MAKE CHINO-SAN HAPPY,
THEN...

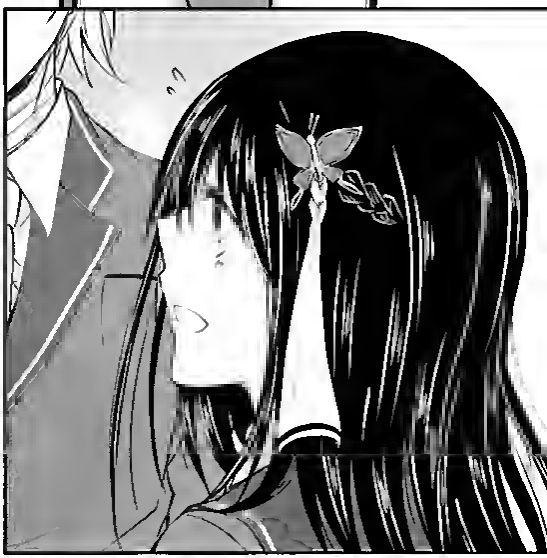
Ugh...
ON THAT TOPIC,
DON'T YOU HATE WHEN OTHER PEOPLE HANG AROUND CHINO-SAN?


...HAH, WHAT'S THAT?
YOU CAN'T BE AFRAID OF FAILURE YOU KNOW.

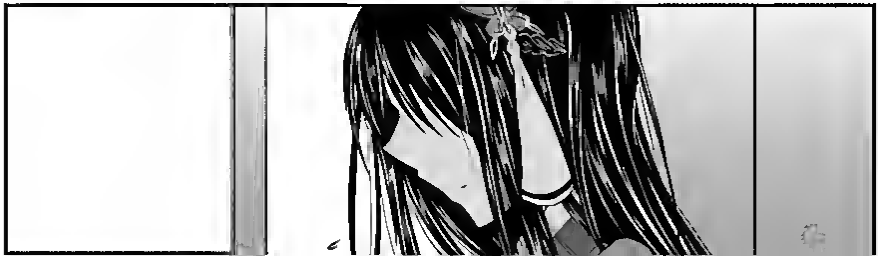
THAT'S,
DEFINITELY NOT A TOO SELFISH WAY OF THINKING.
MAKI-KUN, AZUMA-SAN.
AA
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT FOR ME.
LET'S GO HOM-
CHINO-SAN?

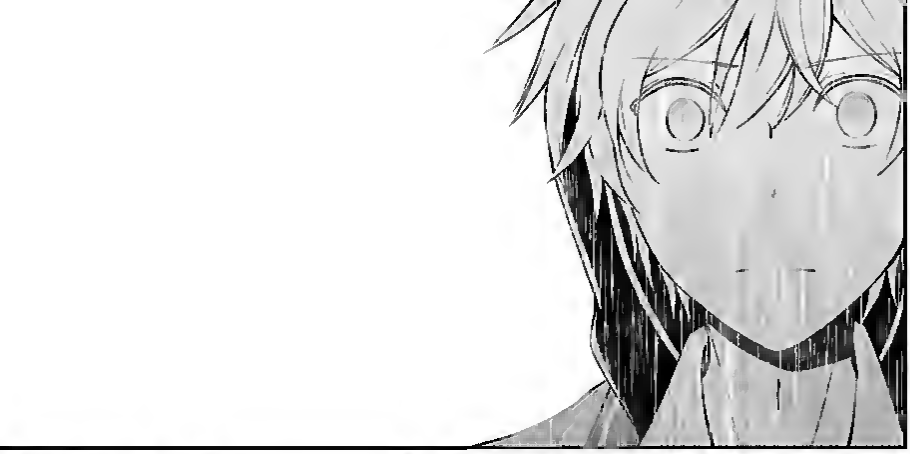
I THOUGHT YOU HAD ALREADY LEFT.
WERE YOU CHECKING OUT A CLUB?

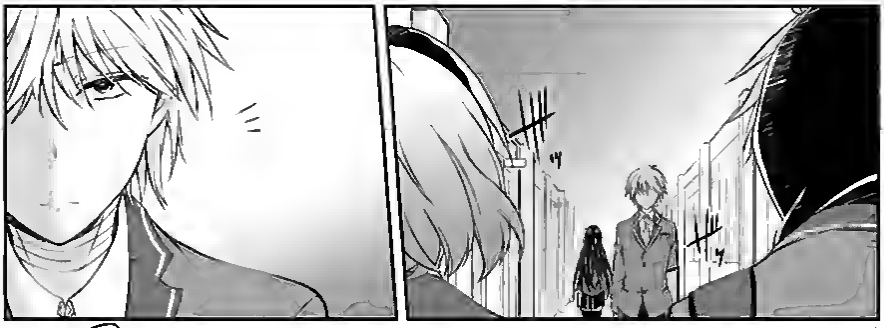
...
KAITO...!



...HAAH.
..AS I THOUGHT.
THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND IS NUMBER ONE..
...UM,
WE JUST FINISHED CHECKING OUT CLUBS A LITTLE BIT AGO.
WE'RE GOING HOME NOW SO,
IF YOU WANT,
WON'T YOU GO HOME WITH US?
.....



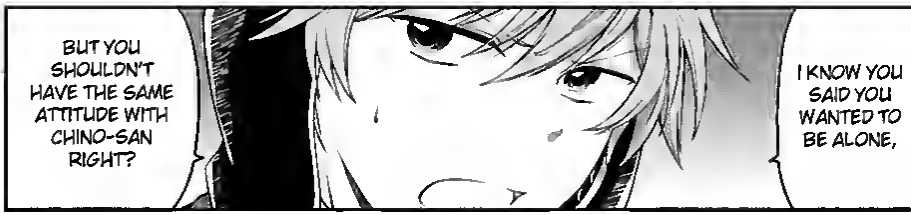


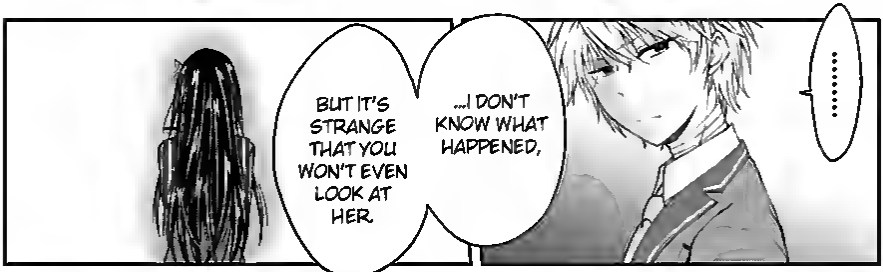


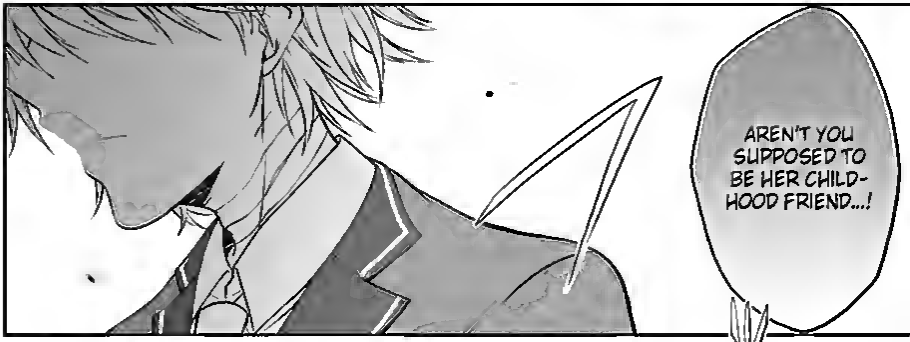
...HEY KURO-SAKI,
YOU KNOW,

...What is it?
...What are you guys waiting for?

WHY ARE YOU SO BLATANTLY,
AVOIDING CHINO-SAN?


I KNOW YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE ALONE,
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE THE SAME ATTITUDE WITH CHINO-SAN RIGHT?


.....
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED,
BUT IT'S STRANGE THAT YOU WON'T EVEN LOOK AT HER.


AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE HER CHILD-HOOD FRIEND...!

Even now I still
!
"CONVIC-TION?"
Don't have the conviction.

HE'S NOT ALLOWED TO TALK TO CHINO-SAN NOW WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!
ENOUGH WHATEVER JUST FORGET HIM!
...NO.

.....
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL HIS PROBLEM IS!!

...HE'S PROBA-BLY,
STILL HIDING SOMETHING FROM US.
...HUH?
...IT'S LIKE HE'S TRYING TO SOLVE A PROBLEM BY HIMSELF.
42
TO SEE KUROSAKI'S TRUE INTENTIONS, EVERYONE MUST MAKE THIER MOVE.....
ANYHOW,
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM TO COME TO US FOR HELP.
>>CONTINUED NEXT TIME